With kind remembrances
to Dr and Mrs Berliner

From the

REV. DR. A. LÖWY,

15, Acol Road, London, N.W.

STADT-BIBLIOTHEK
FRANKFURT am MAIN.

A Souvenir

OF THE

REV. DR. A. LÖWY'S EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY.

SPEECHES

ON

PRESENTATION OF A CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th, 1896.

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THE REV. DR. LÖWY'S EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY.

On Sunday, December 13th, the Rev. Dr. Löwy received at his residence, 15, Acol Road, West Hampstead, a large number of friends who offered their congratulations on his 80th birthday. These congratulations found permanent expression in an Address presented on behalf of a number of gentlemen in England and abroad, who have long been on terms of close friendship with Dr. Löwy.

Apologies for non-attendance, owing to absence from town, were sent by Sir P. Magnus and Messrs. C. G. Montefiore and I. Spielman, who were to have formed part of the deputation selected to present the Address.

The Rev. MORRIS JOSEPH, addressing Dr. Löwy, said that by a process of unnatural selection he had been chosen to say a few words on that auspicious occasion. Some six weeks previously their common friend, Mr. Schechter, had suggested that some of his (Dr. Löwy's) personal friends should signalise his 80th birthday, and he proposed, as a fitting method of doing so, the preparation of a book containing contributions from various hands. There was not, as he (Mr. Joseph) pointed out to Mr. Schechter, sufficient time for the publication of such a work, and, failing that English expedient, a dinner, which would have been

soon eaten and forgotten, it was decided to adopt the third of the traditional three courses, and offer a congratulatory address. The signatories to that document had been sought for among those of Dr. Löwy's personal friends who, because they occupied some eminent or public position, would give the testimonial a representative character. If all his intimate friends had been asked to sign, a volume would have been needed. If, in addition, all his admirers who occupied public positions had signed, two volumes would have been needed. As it was, a great eagerness to be among the signatories had been manifested, and had the time for completing the work been extended, it would have been impossible to confine the address within the ordinary limits. The signatures obtained were, however, sufficiently representative. Not to refer to the English names, those obtained on the Continent were those of men distinguished in various walks of life. Among the signatures was that of Mr. Charles Welch, the Librarian at the Guildhall, with whom Dr. Löwy had been associated for many years, by the compilation of the valuable and charming Catalogue to the Library—a work which, in itself, would suffice to hand down Dr. Löwy's name to a grateful posterity. To one absent name he might allude—that of the Marquis of Bute. His lordship was absent from London, but he had intimated his wish to sign on his return. As to the address itself, the Hebrew portion of it had been composed by Mr. Schechter, and transcribed, as a labour of love, by the Rev. S. M. Gollancz, himself a veteran. He (the speaker) did not propose to travel over the ground covered by the address. But on his own individual behalf, he desired to offer Dr. Löwy his heartfelt congratulations on that happy occasion. He was reminded of the Talmudic apologue of the traveller and the date-tree. A wayfarer, wearied by his long journey in the desert, comes to an oasis where a luxuriant date-tree grows. He reclines under its shade, and eats of its fruit. He rises to resume his journey, refreshed and invigorated. But before leaving he addresses a grateful word to the friendly tree: "What can I wish thee that thou hast not already. Thy roots are set in a fertile soil; thou art flourishing; thou bearest goodly fruit. I can only wish that all thy saplings may be as favoured as thou art." And so, continued the speaker, he might say to their venerable friend. He was rich, for he had the true wealth of a contented mind; he had won the respect and affection of a host of friends; he had been blessed with good and loving children. What could one wish him, seeing that he had all these choice gifts? Naught was left them but to pray that all his children might be as happy, as honoured, as beloved as he was. Mr. Joseph concluded by reading the address and formally offering it for Dr. Löwy's acceptance.

The Address is as follows:—

וללוי אמר ברך ה" חילו:
אנחנו אוהביך מגישים בזה לפניך את ברכתנו
ליום מלאת לך שמנים שנה. רבות עבדת בכרם
ה" וגדולים מעשיך לטובת הכלל. ותורת ה" וחכמת
ישראל היו שעשועיך: ואנחנו תפלה כי יאריך ה"
את שנותיך בנעימים ויוסיף לך עז ותעצמות
להגדיל תורה ולהאדירה כבימי קדם לשמחת לב
בניך וכל אוהביך מוקיריך ומכבדיך:

TO THE REV. ALBERT LÖWY, LL.D.

DEAR DR. LÖWY,

We the undersigned, who have long enjoyed the privilege of your friendship, offer you our warmest congratulations on the occasion of your completing your Eightieth year. Your wide and varied knowledge, your philanthropic ardour, your zeal for the Jewish cause, your elevated character and your genial disposition, have won for you the respect and affection of hundreds, who, like ourselves, have admired your life-work, and have found inspiration in your example. We earnestly pray that the Almighty may prolong your life for yet many years, and that the "glorious crown" of your old age may be adorned with additional gems of usefulness and joy and honour.

We are,

Yours very sincerely,

Israel Abrahams.
H. Adler.
J. Bigart.
Abr. Danon.
M. Duparc.
M. Friedländer.
Ellis A. Franklin.
M. Gaster.
Hermann Gollancz.
Israel Gollancz.
S. M. Gollancz.
Isidore Harris.
Marcus Hartog
Philip J. Hartog.
Alfred G Henriques.
E. M. Henriques.
F. G. Henriques.
H. Hirschfeld.
Maurice Jacobs.
Morris Joseph.
Delissa Joseph.
Zadoc Kahn.
Sylvain Lévi.
Philip Magnus.
F. D. Mocatta.
Claude G. Montefiore.
Asher I. Myers.
Dr. S. Neumann.
Leopold de Rothschild.
Charles Salaman.
Charles Samuel.
S. Schechter.
Leopold Schloss.
Lawrence M. Simmons.
Oswald John Simon.
Jno. Simon.
S. Singer.
Solomon J. Solomon.
Isidore Spielman.
Moritz Steinschneider.
Charles Welch.

[Pressure of time did not permit the addition of many names of friends who subsequently expressed regret that their signatures could not be entered on the address.]

The CHIEF RABBI said: This simple and modest testimonial is characteristic of the simplicity and modesty which have marked your entire career. But more grateful to you than any outward testimonial must be the love of children and grandchildren, and the affection of sympathising friends by whom you are surrounded to-day. It must indeed be to you a source of gratification, that your way of life has fallen, not into the sear and yellow, but into the green and fruitful leaf. "And that which should accompany old age, as honour, love, obedience, troops of friends," are given you in no stinted measure. You acted wisely in retiring in full mental and physical vigour from the more active duties of your profession, so that you might obtain what the inspired writer terms "Songs in the night"—pleasant dreams and reposeful sleep. But you have still remained in golden harness; we still hail you as our venerable and trusted colleague in the great work of the Anglo-Jewish Association and in the cultivation of Hebrew literature. We look forward to enjoy the fruits of your research and study at the Jews' College Literary Society, our Historical Society and at the Biblical Archæological Society. Much will be heard within the next few months about the glory of a bright, serene, active and honoured old age. This diadem adorns your brow. All our wishes and prayers for you are concentrated in the words: "And as thy days, so may thy strength be." (Cheers).

Mr. OSWALD J. SIMON said that there were two absentees who formed, perhaps, the two earliest friendships which Dr. Löwy had made in this country, namely, his uncle, Mr. Charles Salaman, and his father. Mr. Salaman was three years older than Dr. Löwy, and Sir John Simon was two years younger. Neither of them was sufficiently robust to leave their homes in that weather, but it was certain that they were present in spirit at that celebration. The letter which was presented that day, conveyed the regard and affection of personal friends who were fairly representative of many shades of thought and of many organisations. It would be seen that in the letter itself there was no reference to the fact that for upwards of fifty years Dr. Löwy had filled the important position of a minister of the West London Synagogue of British Jews. It was felt that that omission was a proper and a necessary one, just because the letter had been intended to carry with it nothing but the personal sentiments of those who signed it, and that it should be without any reference to any official relations which Dr. Löwy had held with any organised institution. At the same time, the fifty years of sacred ministrations in the service of a single congregation was a great incident in the career of any man. In this case, he could not shut out from his thoughts the fact that over and above their personal relations, Dr. Löwy had been during the greater part of his (Mr. Simon's) own life a minister of the congregation to which he was very greatly attached. Those who were born and who had grown up in the Reform Synagogue felt a very special tie to Dr. Löwy. His relations with them possessed many tender memories. As a minister, he was

endeared to them, for he had in that position exercised in no small degree a lofty religious influence. In moments of deep domestic sorrow, Dr. Löwy had been the bearer of kindness and solace. In their homes, as well as in the synagogue, he had comforted them. He had exhibited a great example of what a Jewish minister should be, not merely by his literary discourses from the pulpit—but by his own true righteousness of life. He was the embodiment of the finer aspirations of a minister. He (Mr. Simon) ventured to say again what he had said at the Maccabæans a week ago, that no man of his generation, with the exception of the late Chief Rabbi, had done more to raise the tone of the Jewish clergy than Dr. Löwy. For dignity, simplicity, and for religious fervour, as well as for learning, his career as a minister was marked with distinction. Mr. Frederick Henriques, whom he was glad to see present, would agree with him when he said that Dr. Löwy had greatly endeared himself to their congregation. Though he had retired from the actual office of minister which he held for so long, he had never retired from the hearts of his congregation, who still regard him as a minister. They were pleased to recognise his venerable figure in the synagogue side by side with his son, who was this year Senior Warden. It was a matter of deep gratification to have with them the presence of the greatly esteemed Chief Rabbi. His eloquent tribute to the career of his venerable colleague made one feel that behind and beyond those minor differences which distinguish the Reform Synagogue from others, there was yet a great bond in the hearts of all—a true union of common Judaism, deeper and more significant than any external or technical compact. Dr. Adler's testimony to the elevated character and lofty religious principles of Dr. Löwy, was proof that all agreed upon one great ideal—the ideal of devotion to the ancestral faith and loyalty to their race. All present most heartily congratulated not only Dr. Löwy himself, but also his children and his grandchildren.

The Rev. Professor MARKS added a few words to the effect that he cordially endorsed every word in the address, and he offered personal congratulation to his old colleague.

Dr. LÖWY said: Dear and honoured speakers who have addressed me just now, and other dear friends who are here to congratulate me. For myself and for my children who are deeply interested in the proceedings of this hour, I would fain wish to thank you for the sentiments and the good feelings manifested in your spoken and written words; but the occasion is so unique in the history of my life, and the evidences of kindness have been so numerous that I cannot possibly cope with the thoughts that press on my mind and agitate my feelings. Accept then my thanks pure and simple. You, my friends, have spoken of what I have done during my passage through life for the benefit of others, and the work I have performed in the discharge of official and unofficial

duties, and you have bestowed upon me very ardent words of praise. Shall I enter upon a debate on the subject of my merits, and on the question of public admiration? What I should have to say might sound either like vanity, which I despise, or like mock-modesty which is only a display of foolish conceit. Admiration I never sought for; but I do most sincerely appreciate the hearty sympathy which I have met with in the circle of those who know me. Friendships which I have formed with those who have aided and encouraged me in my life-tasks are my sacred property, and this property I shall love and cherish to the end of my days. Those who have stood by my side when I was in correspondence with persons and communities here and abroad, have a full share of merit in the promotion of objects which benefited the older and the rising generation of our brethren. Therefore, my thanks to-day have a wider range than can be called forth by my own individual interests. The charmingly-worded and beautifully-illuminated address which you have been so good as to present to me, is highly prized by myself, and will be a precious heirloom for my children and children's children. By the side of your recorded proofs of kindness will live my unwritten sentiments and utterances of gratitude. Looking back to my private and official contact with my fellow-workers, I will mention an instructive fact which gave me some power and influence within the sphere of my action. I refer to a lesson which was, in early life, given to me and my brothers by my lamented father. With much earnestness he often used to tell us that whenever he had a fitting opportunity to oblige good and deserving persons, he would do so—he would do so unhesitatingly, even to the inconvenience of himself. This parental teaching I have treasured in my heart; and thereby have I succeeded in many efforts where others have drawn back or failed. I trust that this teaching will be well remembered in my own family. In concluding my cordial words of thanks, I cast a parting glance upon the unrolled history of my life's-day. The pleasantness of the morning could never be appreciated in the early time of playfully realistic childhood; and as years were added unto years, the struggle in the campaign for self-preservation was severe, although much relieved by labours and events which appealed to the mind and the heart. The sun is now near to its setting; and it is gilding that hill, behind which the horizon is glowing with tints of burnished gold, that will gradually fade away in the lessening margin of a silvery ground, But "in the eventide a light beams forth." The starry vault announces the presence of an Eternal Light, and the soul—a radiant breath of the Deity—is basking in it, while we are cheered on, throughout days and nights, to make our existence a source of happiness. Happiness is the watchword of every hour of life. May all whom we love enjoy the blessings of unclouded happiness.